

# MARYLAND PARK

## DESIGN CONCEPT 3

Design Concept 3 amplifies the urban stage setting on the site as seen from Independence Avenue. Large memorial tapestries of woven stainless steel wire supported on a linear colonnade create a backdrop and proscenium within the urban stage set of this site. The tapestries serve two primary purposes. The first is to establish the site as a special Memorial precinct along the northern edge of the site at Independence Avenue and along the southern side of the Memorial, adjacent to the US Department of Education Building.

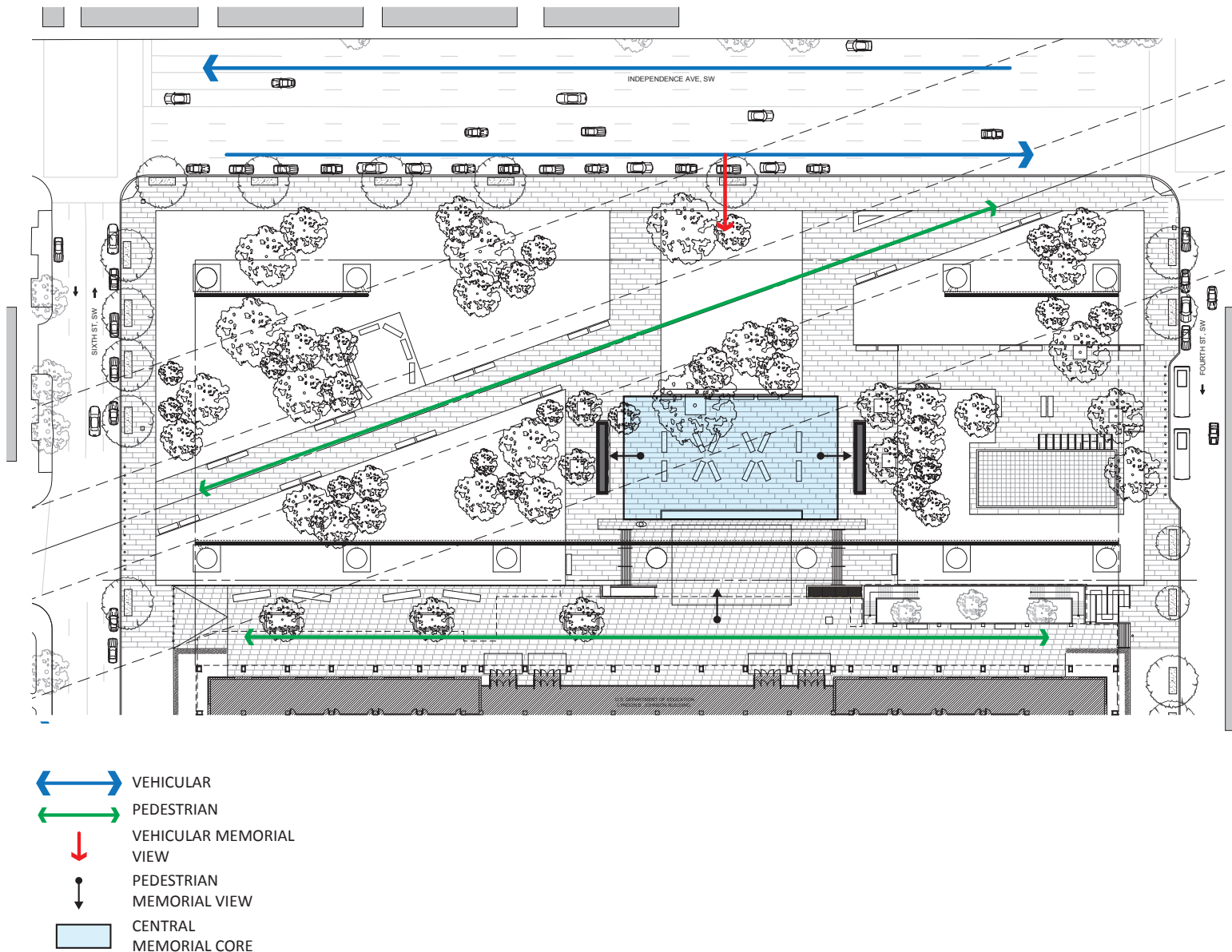
The second purpose of the tapestries is a means to memorialize President Eisenhower. The imagery will be black and white, like the photographic images of Eisenhower's time. The tapestry concept is a landscape montage of Abilene, Kansas, reminiscent of Eisenhower's home and time. The tapestry images are intended to serve as a setting to direct the focus to the Memorial core. The imagery will be closely coordinated with the family, the commissions and our historian to select the final and appropriate content.

Set near the center of the site is the Memorial core with the central grove. Integrated bench seating at the grove looking outward. Two simple equally sized bas relief blocks facing the center gathering space are the primary memorialization feature to illustrate the important historic events in Eisenhower's career. The scale of the reliefs is being studied with the context of the precinct.

Outside the Memorial core, green lawn with groundcover planting has been expanded to the fullest extent possible, providing emphasis of the Memorial center as the primary visitor gathering "place". These green spaces are developed as a garden counterpoint to the orthogonal layout of the tapestries and as a compliment to the generally informality of the memorial core. Primary paths are along Maryland Avenue as well as between 4th Street and the Memorial center.

The scale and species characteristics of trees are carefully chosen in a layered effect to create specific interactive sensitivities to space, and movement through the site. Trees will have a specific and intentional relationship to the tapestry imagery as a natural foreground, framing the views. Medium to large trees provide boundaries at the corners and ends of the tapestries. Smaller trees around the larger trees provide a gradual scaling down to the primary pedestrian pathways. The larger tree canopies and smaller understory trees will be developed and arranged on the site to permit the best possible site lines to the memorial feature design elements, with the central grove being the dominate landscape feature. The placement and selection of tree species in relation to growth needs to be studied for a long term life cycle understanding of the site.

The required building program uses on site are within the landscapes setting and located to the Southeast corner of the site. The building is modest, clad in complimentary materials such as limestone so as not to detract from the Memorial as the primary visitor experience.





6/3/2010 DESIGN



0' 10' 20' 50'  
CURRENT DESIGN













ELEVATION FROM INDEPENDENCE AVENUE



EAST- WEST SECTION



NORTH- SOUTH SECTION







VIEW LOOKING SOUTHWEST ALONG MARYLAND AVE AND WEST ALONG INDEPENDENCE AVENUE



VIEW LOOKING NORTHEAST ALONG MARYLAND AVE FROM MEMORIAL SITE



VIEW LOOKING SOUTHEAST FROM INDEPENDENCE AVE



VIEW LOOKING SOUTHWEST NEAR INTERSECTION OF INDEPENDENCE AVE AND 4TH ST





THIS ILLUSTRATES THE VIEWSHED TO THE CAPITOL ALONG MARYLAND AVENUE. THE LANDSCAPE FRAMES THE MARYLAND AVENUE AND CAPITOL VIEWSHED. IN ADDITION, THE LBJ PROMENADE IS HIGHLIGHTED HERE AS ITS OWN INDIVIDUAL ARCHITECTURAL SPACE, SERVING AS A FORECOURT TO THE BUILDING AND A FOURTH-SIDED FRAME TO THE MEMORIAL SQUARE.





THIS VIEW ILLUSTRATES THE VIEWSHED ALONG MARYLAND AVENUE TO THE SOUTHWEST.  
THE LANDSCAPE FRAMES THE DIAGONAL STREET AND FRAMES THE MEMORIAL CORE AREAS.





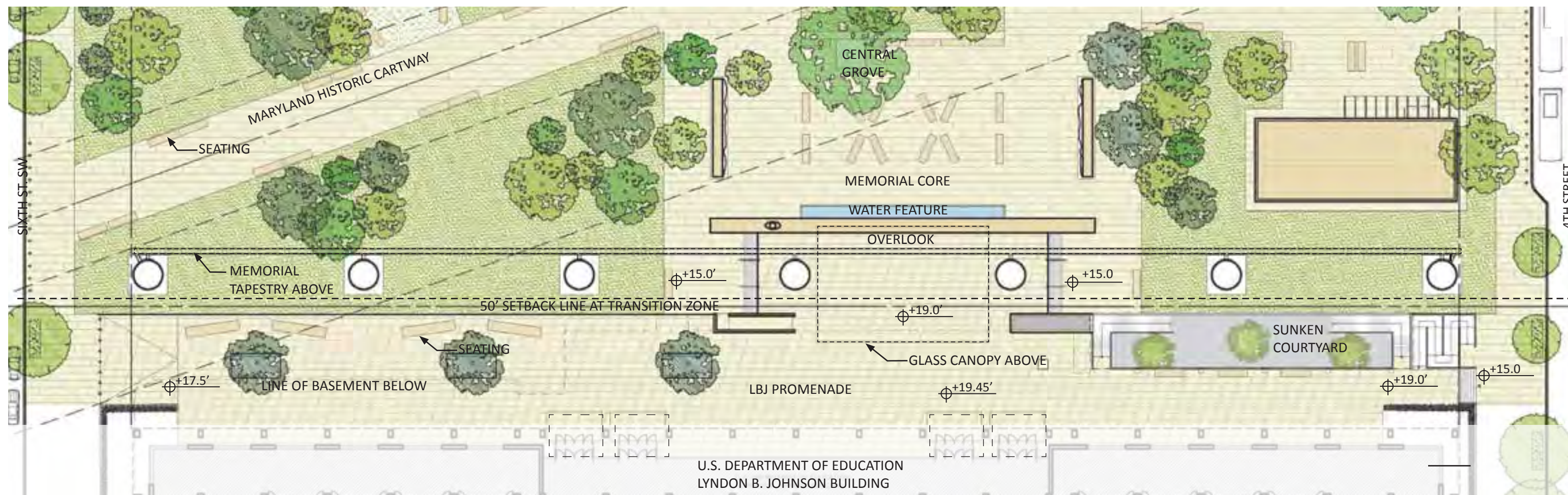
THIS VIEW ILLUSTRATES A WINTER SCHEME AT THE MEMORIAL CORE.





THIS VIEW ILLUSTRATES THE CENTRAL MEMORIAL CORE FRAMED BY THE CENTRAL GROVE AND MEMORIAL ELEMENTS INCLUDING BAS-RELIEF WALLS, WATER FEATURE AND TAPESTRY. THE ELEVATED PROMENADE BEYOND PROVIDES A MEMORIAL OVERLOOK, BELOW THE GLASS CANOPY. LBJ BUILDING ENTRANCE IS SEEN BEYOND.





#### SUMMARY OF PROMENADE ADVANCEMENTS:

1. A distinct pedestrian promenade has been developed across the site, along the northern Lyndon B. Johnson Building facade connecting 4th Street to 6th street. This promenade acts as an urban street for access to the entrance of the building.
2. The memorial site grading has been coordinated so the promenade is elevated approximately 4 feet above the Memorial core.
3. The paved forecourt has a direct visual connection through the landscaped memorial park and out toward Independence Avenue. This grade change provides the perimeter security at the northern facade of the building.
4. A memorial overlook has been created at the central Memorial Core. This area is protected overhead with a glass canopy and can be used as a gathering space for Memorial visitors, Memorial events, and potentially events for the Department of Education.







VIEW LOOKING NORTHWEST TOWARD PODIUM. 6TH STREET AND INDEPENDENCE BEYOND



VIEW LOOKING NORTH TO MEMORIAL CORE



VIEW LOOKING EAST TOWARD 4TH STREET





SOUTH TAPESTRY ELEVATION



EAST TAPESTRY ELEVATION

**TAPESTRY IMAGERY SUMMARY:**

The imagery represented on the tapestry represents the general landscape of President Eisenhower's home town of Abilene, Kansas. In addition, specific features from his past and present in the village, his childhood home, and silos are represented. The imagery is intended to set the entire site up from his origins and early years. The landscape imagery provides a tranquil setting for this urban site and is tied to the actual landscape design and the placement of trees on site. The planting locations and tree groupings have taken the tapestry artwork into consideration. In addition, viewsheds within the site and along Maryland Avenue have also been considered.



WEST TAPESTRY ELEVATION

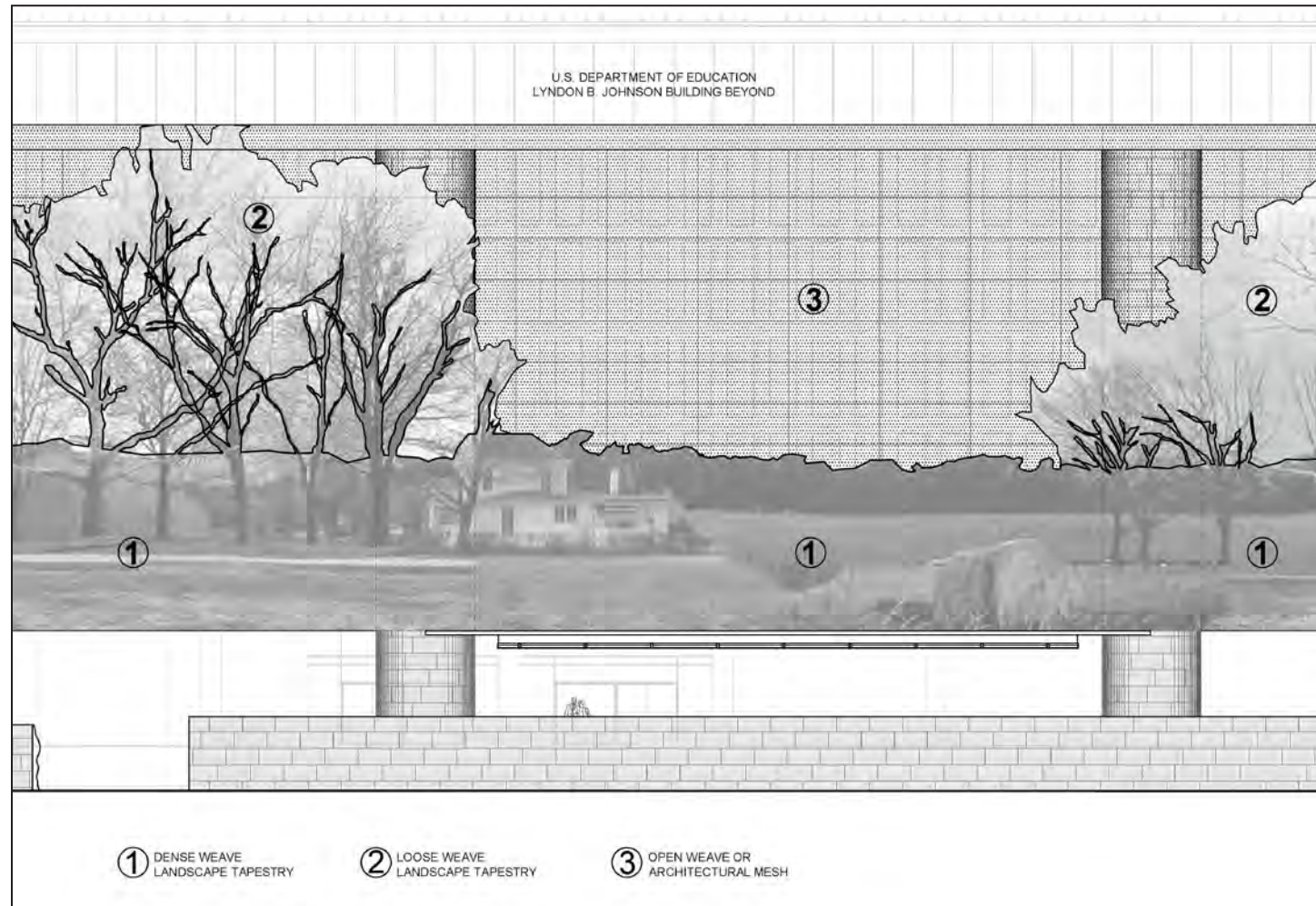


# EISENHOWER MEMORIAL

Gehry Partners • AECOM Joint Venture

DESIGN CONCEPT 3: TAPESTRY STUDY LANDSCAPE



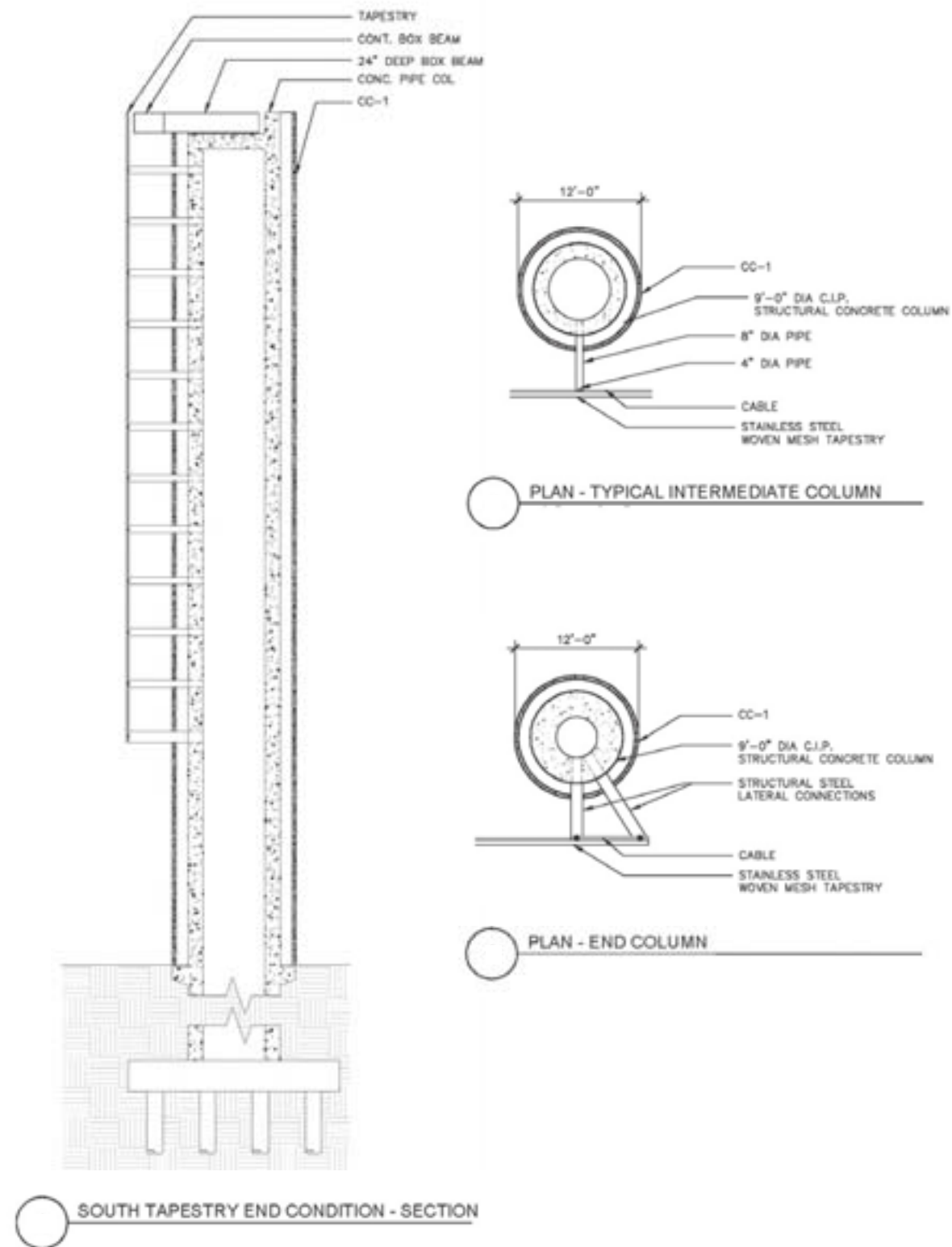


THE TAPESTRY FEATURE IS ENVISIONED AS A LAYERED OR INTEGRATED ASSEMBLY COMPRISED OF 3 ELEMENTS.

- ① The dense weave structure illustrating the landscape tapestry is a high quality, resolute jacquard woven tapestry, made of silver & black stainless steel wire.
- ② The loose weave tapestry section is a less resolute image located at the space between major tree limbs. This element will be partially transparent.
- ③ The open weave or architectural mesh section will be a stainless steel base material to resemble sky portions of the image. This portion will have no “image” detail and have a high degree of openness.







#### **SUMMARY OF CABLE NET SYSTEM:**

1. The tapestry structural system is proposed as a cable net system.
2. Highly tensioned stainless steel cables span horizontally between the memorial columns. The horizontal cables are the primary load carriers, while the vertical cables act to tie the net together. The spacing of the cable net will be coordinate with the tapestry sections in order to conceal and integrate within the tapestry.
3. A stainless steel tension beam at the top of the tapestry helps to limit the column bending as well as support intermittent vertical cables. This system is similar to a glazed cable curtain wall system. This structural system is optimal for a long span, light weight-appearing support system and is the least visually intrusive method for the structure.
4. The columns have been sized and engineered to accomodate the horizontal wind load and the axial forces applied by the cable net system.







# THEMATICS

The strongest memorials produce a singular image which resonates in people’s collective memory. These types of memorials are about one important statement first, which then leads to other subtexts. The Lincoln Memorial, for example, is a temple set in a picturesque setting. The central image is the Lincoln statue, which is flanked by written narratives of the Gettysburg Address and a portion of Lincoln’s Second Inaugural Address. The Eisenhower site is similarly organized. The precinct creates a picturesque setting. The central image are the trees of the park integrated within tapestry itself, a symbolic landscape of Eisenhower’s beginnings and background. This image is flanked by two Memorial elements that house Eisenhower’s story. Portrait, still life, and landscape are the three traditional and classical ways artists have portrayed their subjects. Likewise a triptych of narratives will be celebrated and memorialized in the Eisenhower Memorial:

- 1. Eisenhower’s personal journey, which begins with his youth in Abilene, Kansas, is fundamentally shaped by the values and understanding of the world as seen through this American heartland lens;
- 2. Eisenhower’s achievements in reaching the supreme position of the US military;
- 3. Eisenhower as General, two terms as President of the United States and his continued role as valuable world citizen.

In situ, these three distinctly American narratives will be approached singularly as Landscape, Still Life, and Portrait.

## LANDSCAPE

The site itself will reflect the landscape of Abilene, Kansas, which is both Eisenhower’s hometown and the geographical center of the United States. Three woven stainless steel tapestries with images reflecting the landscape and plains of Abilene, Kansas will frame the site as a proscenium park theater. The site’s middle ground will reflect the subject matter of the tapestry by holding a contemplative park of trees and plantings, which will act as a foreground extension of the tapestry. The site is intended to be a calm, autonomous, and picturesque experience, framing the context of Eisenhower’s early life and values.

The simple and beautiful landscape of the Kansas plains suggests its own simple and beautiful ontology and set of values. This actual and symbolic landscape formed the lens through which Eisenhower saw the rest of the world. He recognized and stated this fact throughout his life: “I come from the very heart of America,” and “Whatever America hopes to bring to pass in the world must first come to pass in the heart of America.”

Eisenhower’s life experiences can be seen as a truly prototypical “American Experience.” The Midwestern landscape image is a metaphor for the United States as a whole, both as the geographic center (to the mile) as well as for a country evolving into its new “World” role, at the exact time of Eisenhower’s presidency.

Upon first impression one will see a park setting and a tapestry of the Kansas landscape. This creates the setting, mood, and back drop for Eisenhower’s life story. Rather than a monumental statue in epic scale, the Eisenhower Memorial stresses the humility, poetry, and values instilled within the American landscape and which gave birth to one of the greatest US presidents.

## MEMORIAL ELEMENTS – Still Life and Portrait

“Memorial Elements” will flank the central gathering space as a means of exploring Eisenhower’s achievements and the background of those achievements. These structures in their current design state are placeholders for the Still life and Portrait narratives. Their size, exact location, and proportion will evolve with the development of each particular narrative. These are envisioned as stone bas-relief, viewing portals other multimedia methods, which are to be determined and presented.

Within the “still life” structure, visitors will get a sense of the time and the values instilled through a close examination of the details of Dwight’s early life. A sense of his wonder, his humble beginnings, his love of sport and his early interest in military history will be portrayed. This area is envisioned to cover Eisenhower’s early life, character qualities, and character development from his Abilene youth up to being selected Supreme Allied Commander. Just after his victory in WWII as Supreme Allied Commander, which is the most important position occupied in American Military history, Dwight stated, “Because no man is really a man who has left out of himself all the boy, I wanted to speak first of the dreams of a barefoot boy.... Always in his dreams is the day when he finally comes home to a welcome from his hometown. Because today that dream of forty-five years ago has been realized beyond the wildest stretches of my own imagination, I came here to thank you and to say that the proudest thing I can claim is that I’m from Abilene....”

The second memorial element will showcase portraits of Dwight as military general and US President, consisting of monumental achievements to reflect Eisenhower as a global leader and citizen, counterpointing the personal focus and humbled beginnings of the still life structure. As Eisenhower said on living in a global world and on his responsibility as a leader:

“Every nation is neighbor to all mankind.”

“All must understand that military rank is a recognition of responsibility and not a ration book of personal privilege.”

“Always take your job seriously, never yourself.”

## PORTRAIT, STILL LIFE, LANDSCAPE – AN INTEGRATED SITE

As the visitor of the memorial moves to and from, in and out of the still life and portrait elements, the visitor is always reconnected to the Abilene, Kansas landscape element, and to Eisenhower’s lens. Landscape, then, becomes symbolic with Eisenhower the man, the boy from Abilene, the first world leader in Washington, DC.

Associative meanings are created and recreated in the individual visitor moving between Portrait, Still Life, Landscape and the three trajectories of the Eisenhower narrative. A visitor connects the narratives in their own associative way. Answers are not dictated via the Memorial but questions and impressions are posed as in all of the great Memorials. As one re-engages the large Washington D.C. context, the visitor walks away humbled and empowered and wanting more to find out more to answer their own questions.



## EISENHOWER MEMORIAL

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## DESIGN CONCEPT 3: THEMATICS



# LANDSCAPE

The hedgerow and drainage-following pattern of tall woody vegetation in the Abilene locale is composed of a variety of principally deciduous tree species, both canopy and understory. Many trees native to this area of Kansas are native to the Washington DC area as well, being part of the eastern North American hardwood forest. In the riparian bottomlands of Dickinson County around Abilene one encounters levee- and lowland-loving, moisture-seeking species, typically (today) a tangle of fast-growing younger trunks closely spaced and, with robust understory and smaller scrub materials, forming a dense vegetative thicket.

The native groundplane of Dickinson County is classified as a mixed-grass prairie, with a patchy, scarce tree canopy intermittently dispersed along drainages and across the landscape. This prairie is typically composed of mid-to-tall perennial forbs and grasses, responding to warmer temperatures and greater sun exposure. Shorter species dominate in drier soils, and taller in more moist domains. Many species are adaptable and thrive in full sun and on into and under tree understory and canopy conditions. Colors of bronze, yellow, and purple are common to the mixed-grass prairie landscape.

The exigencies of urban design – safety, maintenance, indifferent microclimate – affect what can be planted in downtown Washington. However, the landscape planting design for the memorial will hew as closely as possible to an interpretation of the character of the Abilene landscape of President Eisenhower’s youth, using materials native to Dickinson County or similar in character and requirements. Limited lawn areas, where appropriate, will provide useful transition zones between paved pedestrian and taller perennial grass planting areas.





# KANSAN LANDSCAPE TYPOLOGY

A key feature of the preferred scheme is the development of a plant palette reminiscent of the rural Kansas landscape of Abilene during President Eisenhower’s boyhood. While it may be possible to use an all-Kansan native palette in the Washington region’s microclimate and with designed soils, a number of more local or regional species may be used to provide the appropriate landscape evocation in the city’s urban environment. The design intent is to create a landscape abstraction of the Abilene landscape at Eisenhower’s time that is aesthetically evocative, and spatially, texturally, and scale compatible. Bottomland and hedgerow groupings will be most effective and applicable, according to photographs of the period and later (1938) aerial photography (see photographs and diagrams), which demonstrate where and how native plantings existed at that time. With their soft undulating levees, the oxbow drainages and meandering curves of Mud Creek and Smoky River unfettered the ground, arrested the plow, democratized the land – they were the outdoor places Eisenhower reminisced about, that formed him – the places boys played, hunted, grew up.



This 1908 photograph gives an indication of the rough landscape character and the linear character of trees and vegetation around Abilene.



At the wildest end of the spectrum, these wolf hunts (this one circa 1908) must have been very significant events in a boy’s life.



By contrast, picnicking on the grounds of the new Abilene Fairgrounds (circa 1900 in this photograph) suggest that locals made a happy and genteel accommodation to native trees and informal pre-existing tree plantations.



This evocative photograph is of Mud Creek, where ‘Ike’ often fished, swam and skated. Note the rough-hewn scraggle of the vegetation, its looming presence and undiluted rural character.



Not only were the woods wild and wooly, but women and children participated as well – a demonstration that wilderness activities were egalitarian, democratic, a more shared and level playing field.



# DIAGRAMMING THE LANDSCAPE

## DIAGRAMMING

The aim of this approach is to evoke a landscape character reminiscent of Eisenhower’s formative years, in the town and countryside he knew so well. As the tapestries incorporate landscape images from that era, providing a consistency, continuity and visually-arresting connection between image and living things, they will also reinforce the power of the landscape elements to shape space and help create the emotional connectivity and contextual frame of a Memorial environment.

The aim of the planting layout, of trees in particular, will be to develop key view relationships with the tapestries, choreographing landscape and structures and images for the visitor as he or she moves through it – reinforcing the scenographic qualities of the experience. The Kansas landscape diagram illustrates how riparian woodlands, levee planting, oxbow planting and hedgerows looked around President Eisenhower’s time in Abilene – narrow, linear, curving and organic.

Simplistically, tightly spaced bottomland and hedgerow-type species are arranged in narrow organic ‘stripes’ across the memorial, creating sub-rooms, proceeding directly out of the tapestries, and reinforcing the remarkable visual trace of Maryland Avenue through the memorial grounds. The planting design proposes the use of local native and adaptive, and Kansas species where possible for trees and groundcover. Groundcover will likely be minimally arranged areas of lawn with more expansive areas of meadow-like native grasses and adjacent under-canopy areas of moisture-loving grasses, groundcover and low shrub masses. Successional models of plant selection/association, sizing and grouping will be studied going forward.

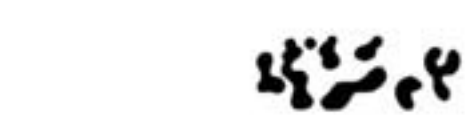
The micro-climate of the memorial will be sunny with areas of shade provided informally under tree groupings, and by the tapestries themselves. The ambiance of the memorial landscape, exterior noise muted by the tumble of water in the center, will present a reflective informal, open and shade-dappled, airy and light-filled urban memorial garden.

## KANSAS LANDSCAPE AROUND ABILENE

Diagram developed 1938 Aerial Photo/1964 USGS of a portion along the Smoky River just south of Abilene, where President Eisenhower went hunting in his youth. The diagram demonstrates the narrow linear qualities of native tree and vegetation areas.



1. An area of about nine square sections immediately southwest of Abilene, illustrating tree cover along Mud Creek, Smoky River and oxbow drainages and hedgerows.



2. Tree canopy diagram of Eisenhower memorial at the relative scale of Diagram One, illustrating the same episodic linear character.

## MEMORIAL LANDSCAPE

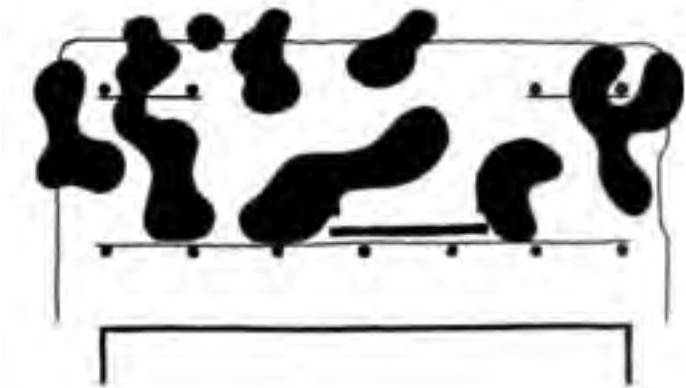
The diagram series illustrates: the organization of tree canopy to create spatial organization; tree placement directly proceeding from tapestry images; and choreography of tapestry images and landscape to create an evocative, integrated work of art and memorial context.



3. Tree canopy diagram of the Eisenhower Memorial, creating sub-rooms of sun and shelter.



4. Tree canopy overlain with tapestry structure, demonstrating how tree plantings will be choreographed with images on the tapestries.



5. Tree canopy with tapestry structure and edge conditions, grounding the Memorial in its site context.